

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-01
ICA-11 SP-02 /078 W
-----025814 230017Z /65

R 211803Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6169
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, PINT, XH
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SUBJ: WCL LEADER'S SPEECH IN PRAGUE SPOTLIGHTS HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: (A) STATE A-1200 (B) BRUSSELS 6453

1. HUNDREDS OF COMMUNISTS, ASSEMBLED IN PRAGUE AT THE WORLD
FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU) CONGRESS, EARLY THIS WEEK
HEARD A LECTURE ON THE UNIVERSAL NATURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

GERARD FONTENEAU, A FRATERNAL DELEGATE FROM THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL), SAID THAT BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS APPLY TO PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL OR SOCIAL SYSTEMS. HE ALSO MILDLY REBUKED COMMUNIST COUNTRIES FOR VIOLATION OF HUMAN AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS.

2. WE HAVE OBTAINED A TEXT OF FONTENEAU'S SPEECH FROM A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE WCL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FONTENEAU HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO READ THE SPEECH WITHOUT IMPROVISATIONS. THE COMMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, WERE MET WITH CATCALLS FROM SOME DELEGATES.

3. AN INFORMAL MISSION TRANSLATION OF THE SECTION OF FONTENEAU'S SPEECH DEALING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: THE REALITY OF THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE IS DRAMATIC IN THE DOMAIN OF HUMAN RIGHTS. EVEN THOUGH NEVER HAS SO MUCH BEEN SAID ABOUT BASIC RIGHTS OF THE HUMAN PERSON, ABOUT LIBERTY, ABOUT JUSTICE, ABOUT WELFARE, AND ABOUT PEACE, MILLIONS OF MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN SUFFER IN ORDER THAT OTHERS ARE HAPPY. CERTAIN PEOPLE HOARD THE RICHES OF THE WORLD, OTHERS LIVE HUMILIATED AND CONSTANTLY ATTACKED. APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA IS WITHOUT DOUBT THE MOST ODIUS FORM OF VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THAT IS WHY, FOR THE WCL, APARTHEID CAN NOT BE SOFTENED OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPROVED: IT MUST BE SUPPRESSED....

CERTAINLY, COMRADES, IT IS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH, PROCLAIM, AND SPECIFY IN DETAIL HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE DEMOCRATIC AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS. BUT ONE CAN HAVE IN SOME COUNTRIES THE MOST DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTIONS AND REPRESSIVE PRACTICES. WHAT REALLY COUNTS IS THE TRUE RIGHT OF PERSONS AND GROUPS TO SAY WHAT THEY THINK, TO DISAGREE, TO READ, TO WRITE, AND TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES FREELY. WHAT REALLY COUNTS IS THE EFFECTIVE RIGHT TO WORK, TO EDUCATION, TO HEALTH, TO THE MOBILITY OF PEOPLE WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION. REAL LIBERTY DOES NOT EXIST WITHOUT THE DAILY RECOGNITION AND PRACTICE OF THESE RIGHTS.

TRUE, COUNTRIES HAVE THEIR OWN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS; TRUE, THEIR NATIONAL SOVERIGNTY MUST BE ASSURED, BUT NO REASON OF STATE CAN BE ADVANCED TO JUSTIFY ARBITRARINESS OR REPRESSION EVEN AGAINST MINORITIES, WHO DO HAVE THE RIGHT TO THINK, EXPRESS THEMSELVES, AND LIVE OTHERWISE.

ON THE TRADE UNION LEVEL, THE BASIC AND PRIMORDIAL CONDI-

TION IS THE POSSIBILITY OF WORKERS TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES
AND TO ACT AND TO TAKE FULL PART IN DETERMINING UNION
OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS, AS WELL AS IN THE FUNCTIONING OF
THEIR UNIONS, CONFORMING TO THEIR CLASS INTERESTS. THAT,
IT SEEMS TO US, IS A BASIC RULE APPLICABLE UNIVERSALLY,
WHATEVER MIGHT BE THE MODES OF ORGANIZATION AND THE
DIFFERENT NATURE OF POLITICAL SYSTEMS.

IN THIS CONGRESS, DEAR COMRADES, MANY ORGANIZATIONS COME
FROM SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, AND WE ARE ANXIOUS TO TELL YOU
THE ADMIRATION FOR WHAT YOU HAVE REALIZED IN THE AREAS OF
ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SOCIAL PROGRESS, BUT IT IS WITH THE
SAME FRANKNESS THAT WE TELL YOU HOW MANY SERIOUS PRE-
OCCUPATIONS WE HAVE ABOUT THE EXERCISE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN
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CERTAIN OF THESE COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS ABOUT THE ROLE TRADE
UNIONS HAVE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THOSE SYSTEMS.
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THE LABOR MOVEMENT ASSIDUOUSLY DEFENDS AND PROMOTES IN-
DIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE FREEDOMS, AND UNION RIGHTS, WHAT-
EVER THE COUNTRY OR THE REGION THAT VIOLATIONS OCCUR. WE
HAVE NO TANKS--AND HAPPILY SO--BUT WE HAVE OTHER WEAPONS,
NOTABLY THOSE OF STRIKING, TO RESTRAIN ENEMIES OF FREEDOM
AND OF DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES, AND WE MUST IMPROVE OUR
ACTION AND OUR MEANS TO CAUSE THE ARRESTS, THE TORTURES,
THE DISAPPEARANCES, THE JAILING, AND THE DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST OUR MILITANTS AND OUR WORKERS TO CEASE.

OUR ONLY CREDIBILITY IS OUR CAPACITY TO DENOUNCE THE
VIOLATIONS WHEREVER THEY OCCUR, TO SUPPORT ALL EFFORTS TO
MAKE DAILY LIFE MORE DEMOCRATIC EVERYWHERE. OUR DETERMIN-
ATION IN THE WCL IS TO STRUGGLE, AT THE SAME TIME, FOR
TRUE DEMOCRACY AND AUTHENTIC SOCIALISM.... END TEXT.

4. FULL TEXT OF SPEECH BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT
(S/IL). HINTON

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